GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2343
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2001
STUDY ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT BY BMTPC
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study was conducted by his Ministry through Building Material and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC)on Disaster Management;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the suggestions contained revising of codes and guidelines for the construction of buildings, as a mandatory requirement in urban areas;

(d) if so, whether the Government had considered these suggestions;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to enforce these guidelines and codes in quake prone States/Zones; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): Yes, Sir. Recognising the increasing concern for evolving appropriate strategies for natural disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation, the Ministry of Urban Develoment & PovertyAlleviation had constituted an Expert Group toexamine the issues related to identification of vulnerable areas and to workout appropriate measures for disaster mitigation, with reference to earthquakes, cyclones and floods.

(b): The Expert Group had prepared a State-wiseVulnerability Atlas of India, made recommendations for setting up techno-legal regime at the State and Municipal levels and formulated design and construction guidelines for new buildings as well a s for strengthening and retrofitting of the existing housing stock. The Vulnerability Atlas and other recommendations made by the Group provide ready reference for the State and local authorities to plan for preventive actions.

(c)&(d): The Expert Group recommended modifications to the building bye-laws, regulations, land-use zoning and master planning regulations to enforce the technical guidelines in the construction of buildings. However, the Group did not make any specific recommendation on revision of codes as it is a regulator activity underaken by Bureau of Indian Standards.

(e)&(f): Government have already brought the recommendations of the Expert Group on disaster mitigation to the notice of all the State Governments including North Eastern States.They were advised in May 1998 to modify their existing building bye-laws by incorporating earthquake safety measures for safer construction of buildings. The States have since been reminded to take action expeditiously.